

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 5-11, 15-19, 21-24, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publishing No. 2002/00534090 to *Silva et al.* (“*Silva*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publishing No. 2002/0165955 to *Johnson et al.*, hereinafter (“*Johnson*”).

Claims 3, 13, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Silva* in view of *Johnson*, as applied to claims 1, 11, and 24 above, and further in view of Mr. Cluey (“How can I find out how many hyperlinks there are on a paper?” published on September 10, 2000).

Claims 3, 4, 14, 20, and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon the rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s indication that claims 4, 14, 20, and 26 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 11, 20, and 24 are being amended; claim 1 to include the features of claims 3, 4, and claim 11 to include the features of claims 13 and 14, and claim 24 to include the features of claims 25 and 26. Claim 20 is rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 4, 13-14, and 25-26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 15-24, and 27-29 are in form for allowance and are pending for further consideration.

All Subject Matter Complies with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully submits that newly amended independent claims 1, 11, and 24 include features previously admitted by the Examiner as being allowable. That is, claims 1, 11, and 24 have been amended; claim 1 to include the features of objected claims 3 and 4, claim 11 to include the features of claim 13 and objected claim 14, and claim 24 to include the features of claim 25 and objected claim 26. Thus, the allowable features identified in dependent claims 4, 14, and 26 are now included in newly rewritten independent claims 1, 11, and 24, respectively.

Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 13-14, and 25-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and objected to claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of its base claim 11, and intervening claims 18 and 19. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because independent claims 1, 11, 20, and 24 are in form for allowance, as is their dependent claims 5-10, 15-23, and 27-29.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

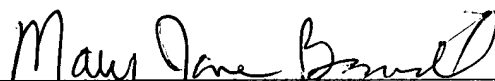
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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